12th May 1954]

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri M. Kattimuthu): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many acres of poramboke lands are available for cultivation in Vriddhachalam taluk; and

(b) out of the above, how many acres of land are being cultivated by Harijans?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) 1,147·74 acres.

" (b) 841·24 acres."

Formation of new handloom co-operative societies in 1946–47 and 1952–53.

* 696 Q.—Sri K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state how many new handloom co-operative societies were formed in the State during the years 1946–47 and 1952–53?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The number of new handloom co-operative societies formed in 1946–47 and 1952–53 were 156 and 21 respectively."

Payment of an advance of Rs. 20 to textile workers.

* 697 Q.—Sri K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, issued any circular to the managers of all the textile mills in the State recommending the payment of an advance of Rs. 20 to the workers before 5th November 1953, as an advance in the bonus account; and

(b) if so, how many mills accepted the recommendation of the Commissioner of Labour and how many did not?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Thirty out of eighty-five mills to whom the appeal was sent have paid the advance and the remaining 55 mills did not."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, the remaining mills which did not pay to the workers are in a position to pay the moneys to the workers according to the recommendation of the Labour Commissioner. So, may I know from the Hon. Minister for Labour what the opinion of the Government is regarding their non-payment and their unsympathetic attitude towards the workers? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I have no information about their capacity to pay or not. But if 55 mills had not complied with the request of the Commissioner of Labour, I have myself no doubt that several of them are